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## Office on Aging brings Meals on Wheels to the homebound



Photo - J. Durgan

**100 year old Hessie Pinkney gets her hot meal on wheels from Frances Johnson and Lewis Maxwell. Pictured are Frances Johnson, Hessie, Hessie's niece Lynette Earl, and Lewis Maxwell.**

*Jerry Durgan*  
**Staff Reporter**

As the population in Bamberg County gets older, as folks live longer lives, and the older population is remaining in their homes rather than moving out to nursing homes and assisted living, Bamberg County's Office on Aging Meals on Wheels becomes more essential. The county, in the year 2000, had almost 12% or about 1,500 folks 65 years of age or older living alone at home in the county.

But it's not just a meal to the shut-in, it's a familiar smiling face, a hug, and a connection to the world outside the front door.

Delivered meals are brought to the person's home and are generally reserved for those that have a hard time leaving their home due

to injury, illness, or frailty. Delivered programs may be called Meals-on-Wheels or any other name but they all serve the same purpose. Meals on Wheels is more of a descriptive term than a name, though many programs call themselves Meals-On-Wheels for the sake of understanding and recognition. Programs using the name Meals-On-Wheels almost always deliver meals to the home, though some Meals-On-Wheels programs also have a congregate meal service arm as well.

Bamberg County's Office on Aging serves between 110 and 115 meals each day to shut-ins and between 25 and 45 congregate meals in the dining room of the Office on Aging. Congregate meals offer the chance to socialize and sometimes participate in additional activities.